

GENERAL WARREN'S OPERATIONS

on the Left.

Additional Details of the Seizure of the Weldon Railroad.

Sharp Fighting and Brilliant Skirmishes.

OPERATIONS OF THE RIGHT WING.

Rebel Accounts of Movements on Both Sides of James River.

THE HERALD DESPATCHES.

Mr. S. Cadwallader's Despatch.

CITY POINT, August 20, 1864.

The purpose of sending the Second and Tenth corps to the left bank of the James seems to have been fully accomplished several days ago. It had the triple object in view of determining by a reconnaissance in force whether the enemy was prepared to resist the onset of a heavy force in that quarter; to frustrate Lee's intentions, if he entertained them, of sending reinforcements to Early in the Shenandoah valley, and to so alarm the rebel commander by threatening Richmond from the direction of Malvern Hill as to induce him to shorten and weaken his Petersburg line. It was undoubtedly successful in each of these. It has also convinced him that although our line is a long one, and the army depleted, by the withdrawal of cavalry and infantry for the defense of Washington, that we are still able to defend our intrenchments in his front, and have a spare column of troops to assault a weak point, or seize any advantage that may suddenly present itself. A part of the Second corps is already back to near its old position, and the remainder probably is on the way. The rebels emboldened by the shortening of our lines, and the suspected withdrawal of our forces, made several furious charges during the night before last, but were repulsed with heavy loss at all points. On Thursday evening and night the Fifth corps was moved from its position in the intrenchments, and marched by a circuitous route to the line of the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, without meeting with serious opposition, and were yesterday busily engaged in fortifying their position and destroying the rails and track of the road. During the day considerable sharp fighting ensued, in which we were everywhere successful. The rebels were keenly alive to the importance of driving us from the road, and holding it themselves, but were apparently not in sufficient force to risk a general engagement, and confined themselves to skirmishing, sniping, and so forth. In the night the Fifth corps was moved to its position in the intrenchments, and the line of the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad was again in our hands. A determined attempt to retake it is anticipated and provided for. This will throw the burden of offensive operations on the rebels and insure to us the possession of the road. Your correspondent with that corps will send you details to-day. Heavy cannonading was heard in that direction during the night, but the cause of it is not known here at present.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith, formerly of Gen. Sherman's corps, and Department Quartermaster, arrived here last evening, and gladdened all listeners by his account of the condition of the commissary department of Gen. Sherman's army. Besides an immense number of rations for the men, there were twenty days' full forage on hand for the animals. He pronounced all going on well, and the capture of Atlanta certain.

At present are at the Six Mile House, or Globe Tavern, as it is once used to be called. It is a windowless ruin now. It derives the name Six Mile House, because it is this number of miles distant from Petersburg. The country here is more open and even than that portion about Petersburg where we have for weeks past been located. Water, furthermore, is as scarce here as there, except as obtained from digging wells. As usual, our wounded are being well cared for. In this regard, Dr. Milton, Medical Director of the corps, has left nothing unattended.

Mr. William M. Morrison's Despatch.

THE FRONT, August 20, 1864.

THE SITUATION—MORNING.

Very little occurred on either of the fronts yesterday, of actual hostilities. The large number of troops, of both colors, left in front of the fortified places at Deep Bottom, were engaged with certain reinforcements to strengthening their advanced position, towards Richmond, from eleven o'clock on the night of the 19th instant up to last night, having the usual amount of skirmishing. There is every possible indication that Deep Bottom will be held, and I think the enemy fully understands that at some day a series of formidable attacks will be made upon the rebel capital from this position. The whole nature and extent of the ground are admirably adapted to this precise idea, which you will remember was thrown out in this correspondence the moment that Foster's occupancy of it was permitted to be made public.

GENERAL D. B. RICHY'S DISPATCH TO MAJOR GENERAL BUTLER.

Major General Birney, commanding the Tenth corps, sent the following despatch to Major General Butler, commanding the department, last evening, concerning the attack of the enemy on a portion of our line held by the Tenth corps, to which my despatch of yesterday mainly referred, and in it will be seen that the colored troops have displayed more courage—

HEADQUARTERS, TENTH ARMY CORPS, IN THE FIELD, August 19, 1864.

Major General B. F. Butler, Commanding Department—

GENERAL—The enemy attacked my lines in heavy force last night, and were repulsed with great loss. In front of one colored regiment eighty-two dead bodies of the enemy were counted. The colored troops behaved handsomely, and in true spirit. The assault was in columns, a division strong, and the colors carried away without a word of defeat. The enemy's loss was at least one thousand.

At four A. M. yesterday morning the rebels, the troops of this corps, with cheerful alacrity, shouldered muskets, musket and cartridge box, to march they knew not whither, to encounter they knew not what of danger, to fight they knew not what of battle.

A considerable portion of the march was over the same ground the Second and Sixth corps formerly occupied before our line was shortened. Advancing a mile or farther into new territory the enemy's outer picket line was met. Capturing some twenty of these, killing some, wounding some, and putting to flight the rest, was the work of an exceedingly brief period.

At length the Weldon Railroad was reached. Two miles of the track was speedily torn up, five miles from the line, and by its means the strong rails were converted into so many heaps of useless iron. A gap had been made in the railroad. "Thus far shall thou come, and no farther," had been proclaimed to trains bearing over this road subsistence to the rebel army.

Our advancing columns, moving at right angles to the road in the direction of Petersburg, met a column of the enemy. Rebel batteries on the railroad contested our advance. Our batteries opened a responsive fire and made it too hot for them. Other batteries opened in other places, and our solid shot and shell directed their missiles at these. Mention of our line of battle—General Warren's brigade, Colonel Lytle's brigade, and that of

Colonel Coulter, met with the most stubborn resistance. But the men fought splendidly.

However got flanked, and for a time was under a severe enfilading fire. The Thirty-ninth Massachusetts lost heavily. Lieutenant Colonel Person, commanding the regiment, fell mortally wounded, while gallantly leading his regiment, in the thickest of the fight.

Colonel Lytle's brigade, commanding Sixteenth Maine Volunteers, found himself and regiment, at one time, almost completely surrounded by the enemy. It was a hard hand to hand conflict which rescued them from their perilous position. Having once been a prisoner, Colonel Tilden had no desire to experience a repetition of Southern hospitality. "Forward boys," he called out to his regiment, and they fought their way through the foe, although not without severe loss. Captain Conley, Adjutant Small and Lieutenant Fitch, of this regiment, are known to have been captured.

While directing the movements of this brigade, Colonel Lytle narrowly escaped death, from two rebel bullets, which narrowly missed him. Captain Foster of his staff, had a like narrow escape, a bullet passing through the leg of his pantaloons.

THE ENEMY AND OUR LOSSES.

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It can be gathered from the partial list of casualties that our losses thus far have been quite severe. It is believed that the enemy has been the worst punished. In every engagement in which he leads the corps, was omnipresent in giving commands and regardless of danger. He had yesterday a horse killed under him.

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Generals Griffin, Ayres, Crawford and Cutler, commanding divisions, have shown like fearlessness with their bravest troops, and so with all the brigade and regimental commanders. As for the corps, in the main, none ever did or ever could behave better.

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AT PRESENT ARE AT THE SIX MILE HOUSE, OR GLOBE TAVERN, as it is once used to be called. It is a windowless ruin now. It derives the name Six Mile House, because it is this number of miles distant from Petersburg. The country here is more open and even than that portion about Petersburg where we have for weeks past been located. Water, furthermore, is as scarce here as there, except as obtained from digging wells. As usual, our wounded are being well cared for. In this regard, Dr. Milton, Medical Director of the corps, has left nothing unattended.

THE Tenth CORPS.

Mr. William M. Morrison's Despatch.

THE FRONT, August 20, 1864.

THE SITUATION—MORNING.

Very little occurred on either of the fronts yesterday, of actual hostilities. The large number of troops, of both colors, left in front of the fortified places at Deep Bottom, were engaged with certain reinforcements to strengthening their advanced position, towards Richmond, from eleven o'clock on the night of the 19th instant up to last night, having the usual amount of skirmishing. There is every possible indication that Deep Bottom will be held, and I think the enemy fully understands that at some day a series of formidable attacks will be made upon the rebel capital from this position. The whole nature and extent of the ground are admirably adapted to this precise idea, which you will remember was thrown out in this correspondence the moment that Foster's occupancy of it was permitted to be made public.

GENERAL D. B. RICHY'S DISPATCH TO MAJOR GENERAL BUTLER.

Major General Birney, commanding the Tenth corps, sent the following despatch to Major General Butler, commanding the department, last evening, concerning the attack of the enemy on a portion of our line held by the Tenth corps, to which my despatch of yesterday mainly referred, and in it will be seen that the colored troops have displayed more courage—

Colonel Coulter, met with the most stubborn resistance. But the men fought splendidly.

However got flanked, and for a time was under a severe enfilading fire. The Thirty-ninth Massachusetts lost heavily. Lieutenant Colonel Person, commanding the regiment, fell mortally wounded, while gallantly leading his regiment, in the thickest of the fight.

Colonel Lytle's brigade, commanding Sixteenth Maine Volunteers, found himself and regiment, at one time, almost completely surrounded by the enemy. It was a hard hand to hand conflict which rescued them from their perilous position. Having once been a prisoner, Colonel Tilden had no desire to experience a repetition of Southern hospitality. "Forward boys," he called out to his regiment, and they fought their way through the foe, although not without severe loss. Captain Conley, Adjutant Small and Lieutenant Fitch, of this regiment, are known to have been captured.

While directing the movements of this brigade, Colonel Lytle narrowly escaped death, from two rebel bullets, which narrowly missed him. Captain Foster of his staff, had a like narrow escape, a bullet passing through the leg of his pantaloons.

THE ENEMY AND OUR LOSSES.

But here, as elsewhere, our men drove the enemy. The attempt at flanking cost him dear. Over a hundred muskets were found, subsequent to the fight, in front of General Crawford's division to which the brigade belonged. It was an open field fight. The enemy never fought with greater desperation, and our troops never evinced greater gallantry. In this opening fight the victory was inconceivably ours. The fight lasted about two hours. There was more or less skirmishing and cannonading all day. At night our troops intrenched and the enemy likewise.

THE ENEMY AND OUR LOSSES.

At one P. M. today the enemy assaulted. It was a vigorous attack. Our men would not be driven, and were not. Again the roar of cannon was deafening and the rattle of musketry incessant. It seemed a revival of the battles of the early part of the campaign. To-night we hold the same position as last night. Our commanding officers are confident of holding their position against any attack of the enemy. Prisoners, however, say that the enemy will drive us from here, if it requires the presence and services of every soldier of their army. I shall not be surprised if the next twenty-four hours bring with them a terrible battle, perhaps the most terrible of the campaign. Our position is a strongly defensible one, and, what is perhaps more, our men are invincibly brave and determined.

OUR LOSSES.

It can be gathered from the partial list of casualties that our losses thus far have been quite severe. It is believed that the enemy has been the worst punished. In every engagement in which he leads the corps, was omnipresent in giving commands and regardless of danger. He had yesterday a horse killed under him.

THE DIVISION COMMANDERS.

Generals Griffin, Ayres, Crawford and Cutler, commanding divisions, have shown like fearlessness with their bravest troops, and so with all the brigade and regimental commanders. As for the corps, in the main, none ever did or ever could behave better.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PERSON WOUNDED.

I have alluded to Lieutenant Colonel Person as mortally wounded. He was shot through the arm. He entered the service as Adjutant of the Twentieth Massachusetts regiment, and was one of the prisoners captured at Ball's Bluff. While a prisoner, at Richmond, his great fidelity in looking after the interests of his associate prisoners will long be remembered. After his release he was made lieutenant colonel of the Thirty-ninth Massachusetts, with which he has served ever since. He was wounded three times at Spotsylvania Court House, but not until he had received his third wound he relinquished command of his regiment. He only returned three weeks ago, after recovering from his wounds.

AMONG THE FALLEN HEROES IS CAPTAIN WILLIAM WOODS, COMPANY F, FIFTH NEW YORK REGIMENT. He came out as sergeant in the Twelfth New York. From a second lieutenant he was promoted to a captain, and has the command of the battalion of his regiment, remaining in the service, now consolidated with the Fifth New York. For the past two years he has served with the corps Provost Guard, under Major Ryan, and only two days ago took command of his company. He was shot through the head and killed instantly. His body will be sent to New York city, where his parents reside. A young man, not yet twenty-two, he had won very many friends, by his modest and manly bearing and bravery.

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